

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CRD11

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth Session

Kampala, Uganda

27 - 31 January 2025

Comments by ISDI

Agenda Item 5: CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

CX/AFRICA 25/25/5

Part A. CODEX STANDARDS AND RELEVANT TEXTS

ISDI notes the reference to the revised Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children (CXS 156-1987).

ISDI is committed to implement the revised Standard for Follow-up formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children (CXS 156-1987). ISDI notes the importance of ensuring a smooth transition to new national regulatory frameworks based on the revised Standard. We therefore recommend once a national framework is adopted for:

A transition of three years with exhaustion of stocks;

The general possibility for companies to put products on the market when they are compliant with the new regulation ahead of the transition deadlines.

ISDI emphasizes that the changes are not related to food safety. The transition should allow for the coexistence of products for a certain time. The Follow-up formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children undertake fundamental changes with the revised Standard.

Manufacturers will need time to adapt to the new requirements once adopted at the national level.

In addition, as foods for special dietary uses, these products tend to be traded more globally than general food. Smooth transitions with national authorities at national level should help as the global regulatory landscape for these products will evolve at different speeds, following the publication of the new Codex Standard.

Part C. OTHER TOPICS ON CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

ISDI notes the reference to the development of a new Standard for foods for older infants and young children.

Context:

CAC47 agreed to the new work proposed by CCNFSDU to start developing a new standard for foods for older infants and young children. The current Codex framework on “complementary foods” is old and not up-to-date to the latest realities.

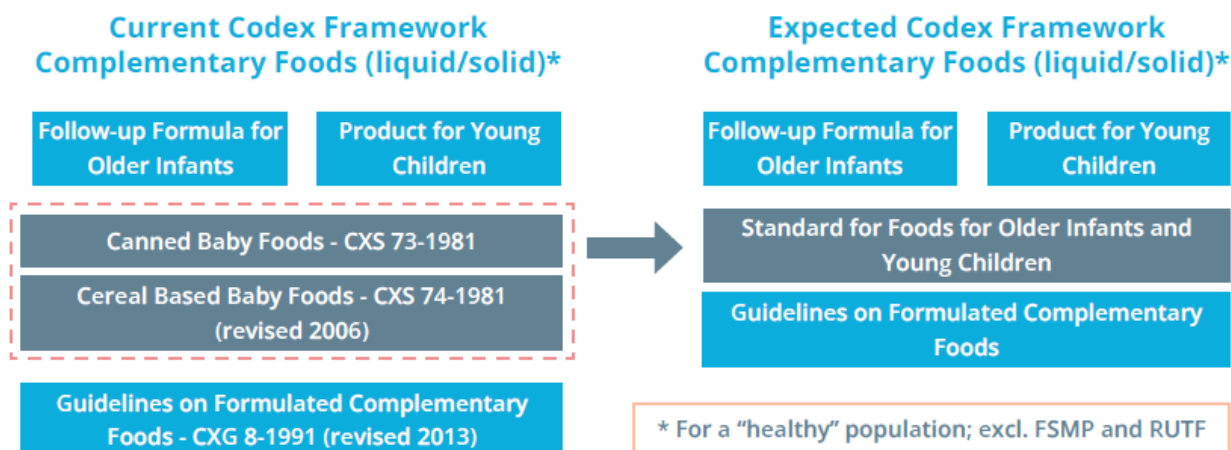
What are complementary foods?

Complementary foods are scientifically formulated to meet the nutritional needs of a growing infant, help increase nutrient intakes and address nutrient deficiencies, help infants learn about new tastes and textures and promote increased dietary diversity. Moreover, complementary foods should be prepared, stored and served with great care under safe and hygienic conditions. Attention to food hygiene has enabled significant reductions in infant food contamination and improved complementary feeding practices.

ISDI supports the new work on the Codex Standard for foods for older infants and young children (age 6 to 36m) which can be provided in particular as cereal-based or baby foods based on meat, pulses, vegetables or fruit based. Beverages are excluded from the scope of the work.

ISDI refers to the project document annexed to REP24/NFSDU Appendix V which states that “Breastmilk substitutes are a separate category of products from complementary foods and will not be considered in the proposed standard. In accordance with the Codex definition of complementary foods, complementary foods are intended to complement the feeding of breastmilk as older infants and young children make the transition from sole source nutrition from breastmilk or infant formula to dietary patterns composed of solid foods.”

The new Codex framework for foods for older infants and young children:



On complementary foods, ISDI is ...

- Committed to protect and promote the optimal feeding of infants and young children
- Supporting recommendations and guidelines which are
 - Science-based
 - Taking national context into account
 - Respecting specific individual needs
- Supporting the review of Codex texts applicable to complementary foods